

WE CLAIM:

1. An osteoclastgenic inhibitory agent, which comprises an interleukin-18 or its functional equivalent.

2. The inhibitory agent of claim 1, wherein said interleukin-18 includes the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, and SEQ ID NO: 3 as partial amino acid sequences.

3. The inhibitory agent of claim 1, wherein said interleukin-18 includes the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 4 and SEQ ID NO: 5 as partial amino acid sequences.

Sub B1  
4. The inhibitory agent of claim 1, wherein said interleukin-18 includes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6.

5. The inhibitory agent of claim 1, wherein said interleukin-18 is human origin.

6. The inhibitory agent of claim 1, wherein said interleukin-18 includes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7.

7. The inhibitory agent of claim 1, which is a therapeutic agent for osteoclast-related diseases.

8. The inhibitory agent of claim 1, which contains a protein, buffer, or saccharide as a stabilizer.

Sub B2  
9. The inhibitory agent of claim 1, which is in the form of a liquid, paste, or solid.

10. The inhibitory agent of claim 1, which contains 0.000002-100 w/w % of said interleukin-18.

11. A method for treating and/or preventing

osteoclast-related diseases, which comprising administering said inhibitory agent of claim 1 to patients suffering from said diseases at a dose of about 0.5  $\mu$ g to 100 mg per shot, 2 to 6 fold a day or 2 to 10 fold a week for one day to one year.

Add B<sup>3</sup>